



Forest Service News Release

Public Affairs Officer: Nathan Judy
858-674-2984
nathan.judy@usda.gov

Cleveland National Forest to remain closed to the public until September 22

SAN DIEGO, Calif. — September 15, 2021. Cleveland National Forest officials today announced that the current forest-wide emergency closure order has been extended through midnight on Sept. 22. The Los Padres, Angeles, and San Bernardino Forests are also extending their forest-wide closures through midnight on Sept. 22.

The Regional Order that closed public access to all national forests in California through Sept. 17 will be rescinded today. Due to ongoing high fire danger and active wildfires across the West, the Southern California national forests will remain closed for another week to better provide for public and firefighter safety. The Cleveland National Forest continues to support fire incidents with firefighter and other resources. A new large fire would have the potential to exhaust local resources.

By continuing with the closure, and temporarily reducing the numbers of people on the Forest, we hope to minimize the likelihood that visitors could become entrapped during an emergency and decrease the potential for new fire starts at a time of extremely limited firefighting resources. Severe and persistent drought due to hot and dry weather has led to rapid growth and increasingly unpredictable fire behavior across Northern California with no relief until late fall. Conditions in Southern California are similar and likely to worsen.

Currently, there are 11 large uncontained fires burning on National Forest System lands statewide, and there are more than 15,000 personnel, 303 crews, and 1,113 engines committed to fire fighting in California. This Closure Order is intended to reduce the likelihood of a new fire start over the next week.

Cleveland National Forest officials wish to thank the public for their patience and understanding during this challenging fire season. For more information, please visit the Forest website at www.fs.usda.gov/cleveland

###